

tions antennas of one or more antenna systems in a CE device can operate without externally accessible communication ports, and in some instances, all communications with the CE device in which the antenna system is mounted are through the one or more communications antennas of one or more antenna systems.

[0126] Still further, in some embodiments, the antenna system can be incorporated into each end of a cable. The antenna systems of the cable could be configured in a pass-through mode to allow the connectors to be chained. Similarly, such a cable could be used with stacked CE devices, for example, where someone wanted to locate devices on a short shelf with one or more devices being located beside other devices instead of on top of them and the devices could be connected with the cable. It is noted, however, that the antenna systems do not have to be positioned one on top of the other. In many implementations, the antenna systems of two CE devices can be arranged in the CE devices to allow the two CE devices to be placed adjacent to each other instead of stacked.

[0127] Some embodiments provide methods of configuring a near field wireless network, comprising: identifying a plurality of near field wireless antenna systems including a first antenna system, a second antenna system, and a third antenna system, wherein at least the first antenna system is cooperated with a first CE device and the second antenna system is cooperated with a separate second CE device, wherein each of the plurality of antenna systems comprises a power transfer antenna and one or more communications antennas, wherein the power transfer antenna is configured to enable wireless electrical power transfer between the power transfer antenna and at least one other power transfer antenna of another one of the plurality of antenna systems, and wherein each of the one or more communications antennas is configured to enable wirelessly transmitting and receiving communications with at least one further communications antenna over distances consistent with those to achieve wireless electrical power transfer through the power transfer antenna; receiving wireless coupling parameters corresponding to each of the plurality of antenna systems; determining, based on the wireless coupling parameters, wireless coupling configurations corresponding to at least the first, second, and third antenna systems, wherein the wireless coupling configurations dictate with which one or more of the plurality of antenna systems each of at least the first, second, and third antenna systems of the plurality of antenna systems is to directly communicate; and initiating a communication of one or more configuration instructions directing each of the plurality of antenna systems to be configured in accordance with the determined wireless coupling configurations.

[0128] Thus, methods and systems for configuring wireless power or data transfer have been described. Although embodiments have been described with reference to specific example embodiments, it will be evident that various modifications and changes can be made to these example embodiments without departing from the broader spirit and scope of the present application. Accordingly, the specification and drawings are to be regarded in an illustrative rather than a restrictive sense.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for configuring wireless power and data transfer between consumer electronic (CE) devices, the method comprising:

identifying a plurality of antenna systems including at least a first antenna system and a second antenna system, wherein at least the first antenna system is cooperated with a first CE device and the second antenna system is cooperated with a separate second CE device, wherein each of the plurality of antenna systems comprises a power transfer antenna and one or more communications antennas, wherein the power transfer antennas is configured to enable wireless electrical power transfer between the power transfer antenna and at least one other power transfer antenna of another one of the plurality of antenna systems; and

wherein each of the one or more communications antennas is configured to enable wirelessly transmitting and receiving communications with at least one further communications antenna;

providing a graphical user interface, wherein the graphical user interface is configured to illustrate each of the identified antenna systems and communicational relationships between each of the identified antenna systems, wherein the graphical user interface is further configured to enable a user to interact with the graphical user interface;

receiving, through the graphical user interface, user instructions corresponding to at least two of the identified antenna systems, wherein the user instructions include wireless coupling configurations dictating how at least one of the identified antenna systems is to wirelessly transfer power to at least one other of the identified antenna systems or how at least one of the identified antenna systems is to wirelessly transfer data to at least one other of the identified antenna systems;

generating configuration instructions in accordance with the wireless coupling configurations; and

causing communication of the configuration instructions to selected CE devices to direct each of the identified antenna systems to be configured in accordance with the configuration instructions.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing the configuration instructions in a memory of at least one of the CE devices; and

configuring each of the identified antenna systems based at least in part on the configuration instructions.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

establishing wireless electrical power transfer between the power transfer antenna of one of the CE devices and the power transfer antenna of another CE device based at least in part on the configuration instructions; and

providing wireless data transfer between at least one communications antenna of one of the CE devices and at least one communications antenna of another CE device based at least in part on the configuration instructions.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

encrypting data prior to wireless transfer between the at least one communications antenna of one of the CE devices and the at least one communications antenna of another CE device; and

decrypting the data after the data is wirelessly transferred between the at least one communications antenna of one of the CE devices and the at least one communications antenna of another CE device.